



Request for City Council Committee Action from the Department of Intergovernmental Relations

Date: December 3, 2013

To: Council Vice President Robert Lilligren and Council Member Elizabeth Glidden
Referral to: Committee of the Whole; IGR subcommittee

Subject: Federal, State and Local Update

Recommendation: Receive and File

Prepared by: Gene Ranieri, Director, Intergovernmental Relations Department

Approved by: _____

Presenters in Committee: Gene Ranieri

Supporting Information.

Federal.

Water Resources Conference Committee. The conference committee held its first meeting on Monday, December 2. The committee anticipates completing a conference report within the near term. Both bills have similar language regarding the Upper St. Anthony lock and dam. It is anticipated that a provision related to the lock and dam will remain in the final report. Rep. Nolan is a member of the conference committee and the conference committee is being monitored by the staff of the state's Senate and House delegation.

Housing Finance Reform. The House Financial Services Committee and the Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee have held numerous hearings regarding reforms to the nation's housing finance system. The House committee has passed on partisan lines a bill that would limit the federal government's role in the system.

The Senate has not marked-up a bill and is still holding hearings. Among the hearings has been one held on November 7 regarding the federal role in affordable housing. Housing advocates as well as representatives of the housing industry supported the inclusion of resources and policies that encouraged home ownership for all eligible households as well as providing for affordable rental housing for low and moderate income households. It is anticipated that the committee could pass a bill next year. Passage by Congress of a reform bill in 2014 is unclear.

Budget Conference Committee. The committee is scheduled to issue a report by December 13, 2013. At this time it appears that there could be a short-term solution that would continue budget cuts. However it is not clear if the cuts would be the continuation of the sequester or its replacement by targeted budget reductions. Revenue increases and "a grand bargain" will probably not be part of a conference committee report.

State.

State Revenue Forecast. The November/December revenue forecast issued by the Minnesota Department of Management and Budget will be released on Thursday, December 5, at 11:15 AM. An update, if available will be presented to the subcommittee.

Legislative Hearings: December 4 to December 13.

December 5 Legislative Commission on Minnesota Sports Facilities. Room 123 Capitol 1PM. Agenda to be announced.

December 6 House Ways and Means. Room 200 SOB. November Forecast 2PM.

December 9 House Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture Finance Room 5 SOB. Update on Pollinator Studies and Statutes 1 PM.

December 10 Senate Committee on Higher Education and Workforce Development Room 15 Capitol. Metro Campus Safety Update 9 AM.

December 10 Expungement Working Group. Room 123 Capitol 1:30PM.

December 13 Senate Committee on Finance. Room 123 Capitol. November Forecast and Preview MMB's new fiscal note system 9 AM.

It is anticipated that during January there will be increased committee activity so that bills and issues can be discussed prior to the start of the session in February.